AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1222 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1934 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 24, NO. 37

To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old. — Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Employer Attacks on Trade Unions Are Completely Riddled by Morrison

A. F. of L. Secretary Disproves Charge That Organized Labor Levies Enormous Dues from Members—Cites Help Given Automobile Workers as Example of Constructive Assistance for New Unions Provided by American Federation of Labor.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

A complete battery of facts demolishing the charge of anti-union employers that unions collect unduly large dues from their members was made by Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in his Labor Day speech at Flint, Mich.

After referring to the employers' intensive campaign in favor of company unions, following the enactment of the National Industrial Recovery Act with its Section 7-A which guaranteed the right of the workers to organize in bona fide unions without interference by employers, and the vicious victimization of employes because of membership in trade unions, Mr. Morrison said:

Enormous Trade Union Dues Canard

"As interest in organization developed among wage workers, newspapers and magazine articles became more frequent, spreading propaganda against the American Federation of Labor, its officers, and the officers and representatives of the affiliated organizations. At the charges is, that organizing campaigns are instituted to extort enormous sums from workers in the guise of dues.

"There is a great deal of fictitious information circulated about supposed enormous amounts at the command of the American Federation of Labor and our affiliated unions.

"According to their reasoning, these antagonists find fault because trade unions are not fly-by-night affairs and do not adopt hazardous financial methods.

"Our national and international organizations are business institutions, and, as such, are required to accumulate and maintain funds to enable them to carry on their activities and to meet financial obligations created under benefit features established and administered by laws drafted by the membership of these international unions.

Regular and Special Dues Cited

"National and international unions pay one cent per member per month to the Federation. Local unions, directly chartered by the Federation, pay an initiation fee of not more than $1 of which is forwarded to the Federation and $1 retained by the local union. The monthly dues of directly affiliated unions are $1 per member per month, 15 cents of which is forwarded to the Federation and 65 cents retained by the local union.

"National and international unions which charge higher initiation fees than $2 and more than $1 per month dues, do so because of benefits paid to their members; namely, strike benefits, life insurance, sick benefits, death benefits and old-age pensions. Their monthly dues must be sufficient to pay the numerous benefits authorized by the membership of the various national and international unions. Increased benefits mean higher dues.

Employers and Communists Join Hands in Attacking Unions

"The propaganda against the American Federation of Labor became intensified as the tremendous wave of interest in organization spread among the wage workers of our country, who, for the first time, since 1920, began to receive the protection of the United States Government in their effort to organize and to secure redress of grievances growing out of unfair working conditions of labor.

"It is important that those who are interested in preserving the free institutions of our country should realize that employers, blinded by selfish interests, are establishing a bond between themselves and the Communists in their common objective of destroying faith and confidence of workers in the bona fide trade union movement.

A. F. of L. Organizes 108 Axis Workers' Unions

"The 168 local unions of automobile workers, directly and indirectly affiliated with the A. F. of L., represent the first successful movement to coordinate effort among these workers to approach and deal intelligently with unfair conditions of employment which work hardship upon them.

"Automobile manufacturers who have discovered that they are threatened against employes because of membership in A. F. of L. unions, have shown no mercy or respect for the rights and temperament of workers who are anxious to deal with their problems in a constructive manner. Great credit is due the members of these unions for the patience and restraint they have maintained under the intolerance of such employers.

Unions Must Develop Solidarity for Their Protection

"It is not to be expected that the members of unions will have smooth sailing, nor is it to be assumed that, by merely joining a union, can they accomplish the laudable purposes for which they are organized. Nothing will be accomplished by relying on the sufferance of the manufacturers. Workers will have to be alive to their interests and alert to the need of solidarity in their ranks.

Assistance Given by A. F. of L.

"The American Federation of Labor will devote the facilities at their command to furnish the members of the automobile workers' unions with factual information that can be used to enable them to discuss their problems and to formulate just demands relative to standards of labor concerning conditions of employment in the industry.

"In fact, no independent body or company union has given one iota of assistance in the endeavor to establish a satisfactory relation in the automobile industries.

"The Federation maintains an efficient Research and Code Department which has been active in assisting our affiliated unions in securing codes and establishing effective governing out of violation of the codes by the employers."

Presbyterians Condemn Profits As Major Purpose of Business

Dr. McDowell Says Christian Ethics Ban Rise of One Social Class at Expense of Another—Urges Cooperation Between Owners and Workers So Fruits of Industry Shall Be Equitably Divided.

The Labor Day message by Dr. John McDowell of New York City, ex-Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly and Secretary of the Committee on Social and Industrial Relations, denounced profit-making as the sole purpose of business and declared that Christianity demands cooperation between those who own our economic system and those who do most of the useful work in order that the fruits of industry may be more equitably divided.

When this state of economic society is reached, Dr. McDowell pointed out, "profits will become a means of enriching life rather than that of merely increasing fortunes."

Text of Message

The text of Dr. McDowell's message, issued from the office of the Presbyterian General Assembly in Philadelphia, follows:

"It is now evident that the spirit needed by our American industry is one of cooperation rather than conflict. The age of unlimited competition has passed. We now see that there is no peace or progress that way. In every sphere of life we know we cannot stand alone. Experience has taught us the value of team work in play, in education, in government, and is now teaching us the need of it in industry, agriculture, and religion.

Old Philosophy Repudiated

"Many of our difficulties today are due to the survival of old sentiments to this new and growing demand. We are still wedded to the crude, the old philosophy of every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. Men of capital, as well as of labor, are repudiating this philosophy. 'More and more,' says Owen Young, president of the American Federation of Labor, 'labor is coming to believe that the interests are promoted through concord rather than conflict. It prefers the conference table to the battle field.'

Labor As An Investor In Industry

"An increasing number of employers are echoing this sentiment and finding ways to make it work. 'The day is past,' says John D. Rockefeller, Jr., 'when anyone can truthfully say that, by merely joining a union, can they accomplish the laudable purposes for which they are organized. Nothing will be accomplished by relying on the sufferance of the manufacturers. Workers will have to be alive to their interests and alert to the need of solidarity in their ranks.

Assistance Given by A. F. of L.

"The American Federation of Labor will devote the facilities at their command to furnish the members of the automobile workers' unions with factual information that can be used to enable them to discuss their problems and to formulate just demands relative to standards of labor concerning conditions of employment in the industry.

"In fact, no independent body or company union has given one iota of assistance in the endeavor to establish a satisfactory relation in the automobile industries.

"The Federation maintains an efficient Research and Code Department which has been active in assisting our affiliated unions in securing codes and establishing effective governing out of violation of the codes by the employers."

Intolerable Social Conditions Prevail in Canada, Draper Says

Secretary of Trades and Labor Congress Condemns Employers for Making Excessive Profits in Face of Starvation Wages—Urges Complete Organization of Workers to Maintain Decent Living Standards—Condemns Dictatorships, Defends Democracy.

Due to reactionary employers who lack both the desire and the economic statesmanship to abolish unemployment by shortening the length of the work week and pay wages sufficient to provide a good living standard, social conditions "have become the daily portion of huge numbers" of Canadians, according to the recent Labor Day message by P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

To remedy this deplorable condition, Mr. Draper urged the complete organization of Canadian working men and women in bona fide trade unions, the extension of legislative measures more fully to protect workers in the sweated trades, and the preservation of the institutions of democracy against the organized assault of dictatorships of every sort.

Text of Draper's Message

The text of Mr. Draper's message follows:

"Once more a thoughtful observer casting about for signs of the future on that day which is peculiarly the workers' own—Labor Day—sees the future obscured by those same heavy, ominous clouds of depression which have darkened the horizon for the last five years.

"Few might have grown accustomed to such a dismal outlook were it not for the eternal consciousness that the storms wrapped up in those clouds have been unleashed from time to time, with consequences disastrous for those in our midst least able to bear them—the workers on small wages.

Deplorable Social Conditions

"Social conditions thought intolerable a few years ago have become the daily portion of huge numbers of our self-sacrificing fellow citizens. Occasionally a break in the clouds appears, a streak of light shines through, but only on a new day, when something like the old prosperity—far from perfect—is practically nothing but unfulfilled promises of better times has eventuated, and always the clouds blot out the light of day once more.

"Such is the atmosphere in which we are enveloped on Labor Day, 1934.

Remedies Are Inadequate

"We still have in our midst observers of this existence—the abnormal optimist who would have us believe, almost in spite of ourselves, that things are getting much better; the confirmed pessimist whose doctrine verges on despair.

"The Canadian worker will neither be benefited by the optimist nor cured by the latter. Things are bad; delayed improvement, like hope deferred, maketh the heart sick, but we refuse to believe that economic conditions have reached a stage of chronic stagnation, though corrective applied so far are either absent entirely or hopelessly inadequate.

Big Profits, Starvation Wages

"During the last session of Parliament public opinion was rudely jolted by the revelations of excessive profits, even in lean years, made by corporations which all too often paid their workers wages fixed on starvation standards. Practices in business were disclosed before the House committee on price spreads and mass buying which gave positive proof of unhealthy and unnatural employment relations in some Canadian enterprises.

Fair Employment Policy Urged

"Such conditions are serious, not only for those directly affected, but equally for those employed in businesses which endeavor to be fair, but which must compete with others in the trade. A tightening up of legislation to eliminate such conditions in industry is essential.

"The day of success in Canadian business through starvation wages, long hours and sweatshop conditions needs to be ended. Success should only be the accompaniment of an enlightened and socially desirable employment policy, one which will meet with public approval as to the fairness to those who toil in industry.

Complete Labor Organization Necessary

"But there is one thing else which the parliamentary enquiry has disclosed, namely, that lack of workers' organization, due to the varying conditions go hand in hand.

"The lesson to be learned is that government control of industry in industrial conditions, brought about through a public opinion which the workers themselves help to shape, is sound in its proper sphere, but it is not a substitute in any sense for the properly directed activities of workers' organizations.

"In fact, the reverse is the case. Legislative betterment of the lot of the workers follows, rather than precedes, employe organization.

"And herein lies the duty of all workers in Canada, to organize the unorganized. The proper maintenance of living standards, a more truly social economic organization, depends largely upon further organization of the workers and that propel must be reached by labor in season and out of season. No truth has been more amply demonstrated in recent years.

Dictatorships Condemned

"In Europe, governmental and economic experiments have become a feature of the daily news. In some countries, on the Continent, the labor movement has all but gone down before the new dictatorships. Partly as a result, partly a cause, civil liberty has been curtailed; but immunity from the depression has not been secured in return.

Labor Demands Liberty

"Unity, liberty and freedom of speech are fundamental factors to cultural development, social progress and the pursuit of happiness. Labor has always stood for liberty and unity, consequently irrevocably hostile to all dictatorships, whether the cruelty of the proletarian, the oligarch, the Nazi or the Fascist types. It believes not only that all human beings should have liberty within the law, which is the highest law of civilized society; another and higher principle, the law of love, which is the principle of mutual help, begins at length to operate.

"Organization converts the industrial enterprise of employers and employes into a moral organism in which the various talents, services and desires of the component individuals are fused into a community of purpose and endeavor.

The great truth of the absolute unity of human interests, which involves the impossibility that any social class should rise by depressing another social class, is the cornerstone of Christian ethics and of a Christian social order. While certain personal advantages may be gained by competing with our fellowmen for the prizes of life, both history and experience show that it would be better if we would cooperate with them for mutual benefit.

Employes and Employers Are Partners

"We are witnessing today in Germany an attempt to build a new type of collective society based on the belief that all a nation economically and politically interdependent old ideas of isolation must give way to a realistic method of industrial consultation and cooperation.

"To do this we must discover something better than an industrial autocracy which involves organized conflict. **Some form of industrial cooperation between capital and labor is the logical and natural result of the application of the Golden Rule to industrial life.** That all producers are brothers is the logic of human brotherhood.

"Christianity has taught us that the employer and the employe are not only brothers, but that they are also partners in industrial life. The law of Christ is the law of cooperation. We must therefore steadily travel toward an industrial order which will identify the interests of the employer and the employe if we are to have permanent peace and progress in America.

Industry for Private Gain Condemned

"Apart from the application of the Golden Rule, vital cooperation is absolutely impossible. Organization, education, legislation are one and all helpless to produce the cooperative spirit apart from the principle of the Golden Rule, cooperation is a matter of spirit, not of system; of motive, not method; of principle, not program.

"When executives and effective labor leaders recognize this fact today and therefore become concerned about the spirit of the parties in industry than in its methods, knowing that a right spirit will refuse to regard industry as other than being a cooperative agency which exists, not for private profit, but for the public service, for the meeting of the elementary needs of the human race.

Justice Must Prevail Over Greed

"There is need of reform in our economic theories and industrial practices and in political machinery, but deeper is the need of devout, fraternal, and cooperative souls. It will be of little avail to reorganize our industries if we cannot secure a new understanding of our employers and employes; cooperation will avail nothing unless the love of justice can prevail over the greed of men. Industrial cooperation will come to naught where the egoism of the old regime remains unsubdued; it will never thrive until the democratic spirit and habit have found root in the lives of the men of industry—the employers and the employes.

Just Distribution Demanded

"Cooperation will contend that the fruits of industry be guaranteed in just and equitable proportion to employer and employe. It will insist that there is no place in cooperative industry for the tyranny of an employers' combine, nor the despotism of a labor union, nor the dictatorship of a governmental agency.

Common Welfare Is Supreme Aim

"Genuine cooperation will demand freedom and justice for the wage earner and liberty within the limits of the law for the employer. It will solve with an efficacy unknown to any other factor the great industrial problems of increased efficiency in production, enthusiastic and intelligent participation in management, fuller satisfaction in work.

"The supreme need of the hour is cooperation, not conflict—cooperation founded in good will and simply on the common welfare. It is evident that only Christ can be the Kingdom of God declared by Christ come."

Note to Editors

This issue of the printed section of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service is devoted almost exclusively to educational articles on the trade union movement.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, contributes a strong defense of the labor section of the National Recovery Act.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, points out the consistency of attacks on the trade union movement made by anti-union employers,

P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, describes the intolerable social conditions in that country and outlines organized labor's remedy.

The National Council of Automobile Workers presents a merited denunciation of the labor-sections of the NRA Code for the Automobile Industry.

Dr. John McDowell, speaking for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, vigorously condemns profits as the sole purpose of business and declares that industry should be conducted for the enrichment of life rather than the increasing of fortunes.

In addition, President Green makes a stirring appeal for the solidarity of the trade union movement in support of the half million textile workers in their strike for human freedom.

In view of the great educational value of these articles, it is urgently recommended that the Labor Press print them in full, even if news items have to be sacrificed.

Current labor news usually appearing in the printed section will be found in the Supplement to this issue.

TEXTILE STRIKE MUST BE WON, GREEN SAYS

A. F. of L. Chief Declares National Unions Are Throwing Heavy Financial Support to Half Million Strikers.

Large Number of Organizers Have Been Sent to the Strike Field to Assist the United Textile Workers of America.

National Strike Conference Will Be Held in San Francisco on Opening Day of American Federation of Labor Convention.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington.—Congratulating the half million striking textile workers for holding the lines, "even in the face of machine guns and bayonets," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement on what had been done in the interest of the strike, called upon all national and international unions, State federations of labor and allied bodies immediately to contribute funds for carrying on the strike in advance of the national strike conference to be held in San Francisco on the opening day of the A. F. of L. convention.

Discipline Is Magnificent

Declaring that the "discipline of the strikers is magnificent, and the courage in many cases approaches the sublime," Mr. Green said the plan for calling a national conference of national and international union officers had been altered so as to throw into the textile strike immediately the largest volume of support.

"I have communicated with a number of national and international union officials," Mr. Green stated, "and I have authority to say that they are ready and money to meet the present needs of the striking United Textile Workers of America.

National Strike Conference Postponed

"I have found that many officials of national unions are absent on part of San Francisco, where conventions of the departments of the American Federation of Labor will begin next week. However much they would like to, they cannot change their plans. As a consequence, it has been decided to reach a number of organizations immediately by telegraph, calling conferences in Washington where possible.

"I am most anxious that all possible strength be placed at the disposal of the United Textile Workers immediately that they may win the strike. Our fellow leaders here it has been decided to follow the course calculated to produce the most effective results. Organizers to this plan new organizers are already reporting for duty. Headquarters of the strike fields and checks are in the mail.

"The national conference itself has not been abandoned. It will be held in San Francisco instead, as a special order of business on the opening day of convention. There is no doubt about what will be taken then. I have had reports from Chairman Gorman of the national strike committee and I find that the strikers are holding magnificently, showing a determination and a courage that cannot be beaten by any employer devices.

Immediate Assistance Urged

"I am calling upon all national and international unions, upon all State federations of labor and upon all central bodies and trades councils to lend all possible assistance to the United Textile Workers at once, in advance of the San Francisco meeting. This struggle is of such immense importance that all organized labor must do everything possible to assist in eliminating now the abuses in the nation's textile mills out of which this tremendous protest has arisen.

"I know what our trade union movement will do. It will be taken. I have had reports from Chairman Gorman of the national strike committee and I find that the strikers are holding magnificently, showing a determination and a courage that cannot be beaten by any employer devices.

Immediate Assistance Urged

"I am calling upon all national and international unions, upon all State federations of labor and upon all central bodies and trades councils to lend all possible assistance to the United Textile Workers at once, in advance of the San Francisco meeting. This struggle is of such immense importance that all organized labor must do everything possible to assist in eliminating now the abuses in the nation's textile mills out of which this tremendous protest has arisen.

"I know what our trade union movement will do. It will be taken. I have enough to make that clear. The United Textile Workers of America will not lack union aid and support in the case of great movement. The struggle, basically, is one for human freedom and it must be won.

Organizers Mobilized for Strike Zones

"For this moment the vital thing is that the full power of the international unions send their organizers into the textile strike situation under the direction of the United Textile Workers and the local bodies do likewise in every case where men are available.

"A half million men and women are on strike and there is work to be done at once. I have made the most urgent call to all of our organizations and I feel sure that the response will contribute mightily to the success of the great strike.

"I congratulate the men and women who today are standing their ground, holding the lines, even in the face of machine guns and bayonets.

"Their discipline is magnificent and their courage in many cases approaches the sublime.

"This strike will be won."

Labor Editors Convention Opens in Frisco October 1

Springfield, Ill. (AFL)—R. E. Woodmansee, secretary-treasurer of the Labor Press of America, and editor of the Illinois Tradesman, announced that the annual convention of the organization will open in San Francisco, Calif., Monday evening, October 1, in the Hotel Whitcomb.

All members of the organization are entitled to notice and to attend the convention, which will be presided over by Matthew Woll, president of the Labor Press of America, and editor of the International Photo-Engraver.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that he will arrive in San Francisco on September 30 and may be consulted at the Hotel Whitcomb.

Pay Slash Brings Strike of Maryland Crab Pickers

Crisfield, Md. (AFL)—A wage slash of five cents a gallon for picking crab meat caused a strike of about 650 crab pickers here. After they had been at work for half an hour the foreman announced that they would receive 20 cents a gallon instead of 25 cents which they had been paid previously this year.

Section 7-A of National Recovery Act Is Strongly Defended by Green

President of A. F. of L. Declares Employers Have Taken Full Advantage of the Act to Organize in Employers Associations and Then Prevented the Workers from Exercising Their Right, Guaranteed by the Act, to Organize in Bona Fide Trade Unions.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

A vigorous defense of Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act, which guarantees the right of working men and women to organize in trade unions and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, without interference of employers or their agents, was made by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his Labor Day speech at Wichita, Kans.

He also was equally vigorous in his condemnation of antilabor employers who have taken full advantage of the act to organize in effective employers' associations and then mobilized their efforts to prevent their employes from organizing in bona fide trade unions.

NRA Economic Policy Is Permanent

"The sound fundamental principles of the National Recovery Act will, in my judgment, remain as a fixture in our industrial and social life and a controlling influence in all the Nation's economic policies and processes," Mr. Green said.

"The prohibition of child labor, the abolition of unfair trade practices, the supervision and control of industry and industrial processes in a scientific and constructive way, and the maintenance of Section 7-A, which establishes the right of labor to organize free from intimidation and coercion and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, in my opinion, will ever remain as a part of the modernized economic policy of the Government.

Labor Believed Section 7-A Meant What It Said

"When the framers of the United States carefully prepared and included Section 7-A in the National Recovery Act, labor believed that it had been accorded the legal and moral right to organize into unions of its own choice and to use the union it selected as a bargaining agency through which representatives of labor's own choosing would bargain collectively with employers of labor.

"That right is stated clearly in this section in plain, simple, definite language, notwithstanding the fact, many employers of labor persecuted, discharged and discriminated against workers who have exercised their legal right to organize in conformity with the terms of the statute.

Government Assists Employers to Organize

"Behold the contrast as between employers and employes in the exercise of legal rights conferred upon them by the Recovery statute! Employers in numerous industries organized into employers' associations with the aid and assistance of the Government.

"Through such employers' organizations industrial codes of fair practice were drafted and approved by the Administration. Code authorities composed of employers' representatives and representatives of the National Recovery Administration were accorded broad powers in order to deal effectively with unfair trade practices, selling below cost, over reporting, and, in many instances, the establishment and maintenance of selling prices.

Organized Employers Prevent Labor from Organizing

"But labor was not so fortunate! 'Many employers, organized into employers' associations through the assistance of the Government, prevented labor from organizing into unions of its own selection.

"As a result industrial discontent, social unrest and strikes have occurred. The basis of practically all strikes that have occurred in the past year is found in the determined refusal of employers to permit their workers to organize, and to recognize the organizations selected by their workers as collective bargaining agencies.

"Employers of labor were helped and assisted by the Government to organize into trade associations. Workers were prevented from organizing notwithstanding the same right of organization was conferred upon the workers as had been conferred upon employers by the National Recovery Act. Employers of labor exercised their rights, but denied the same privilege to their employes.

Workers Resent Deprivation of Their Legal Rights

"Working people smart under a sense of injustice. They keenly resent interference in the exercise of a clearly defined and simply declared legal right. Without cooperation no real gain can only be developed to the highest point when they become conscious of the fact that they are possessed of the right to interference to exercise their industrial, social and moral rights.

Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively Must Be Recognized

"Labor interprets Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act and the substitute for the Wagner Disputes Act providing for the creation of a National Labor Relations Board as meaning that, first, the workers of the Nation are accorded and guaranteed the right to organize for mutual help and protection, free from interference or coercion by their employers or their agents; second, that the organization established under that free exercise of their legal rights shall be accepted and recognized by employers as the agency through which the workers may bargain collectively regarding wages, hours and conditions of employment through representatives of their own choosing.

"Labor believes that this interpretation represents the true spirit, purpose and meaning of the Congress of the United States. No doubt it was intended when drafting the law as incorporated in the National Recovery Act that labor was to be free—free to organize, free to choose its representatives, free to bargain collectively through representatives of its own choosing.

Abolition of Company Union

"It was never intended that employers should interfere with the exercise of the rights of their workers to organize or should attempt to frustrate the purpose of that right by setting up company unions financed, formed, maintained and administered by the employer.

"Such action is a violation of the spirit if not the letter of the National Recovery Act.

"Labor will seek the enactment of additional legislation designed to prevent employers from setting up company unions, financing them and maintaining them. We hold that if labor is to be free it must be free in the full sense and meaning of that term."

Scrapping of Auto Code Urged By Automobile Workers Council

Gives No Real Protection to Employes, Is Charge—Maximum Hours Are Not Prescribed for 20 Per Cent of the Workers—"Merit" Clause Denounced.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington.—The outrages against decent wages, hours and work conditions imposed on auto workers by automobile manufacturers under the NRA code of fair competition were strongly emphasized by the National Council of Automobile Workers in their statement to the National Recovery Administration urging further consideration, prior to the extension, succinctly detailed the extent to which the code has been used to enslave the workers. The Council's statement follows:

"Unless and until the automobile workers, we have protested against any continuation of the automobile code in its present form.

"Through the past year the manufacturers have made enormous profits from which have been declared extra dividends through a combination of a measureless code and a great demand for automobiles arising from the New Deal applied to the rest of the country. We explained to Colonel G. A. Lynch, Acting Administrator of the National Recovery Administration, the many ways in which the present automobile code is totally inadequate to accomplish the purposes of the President and the Recovery Act.

48-Hour Week Hit

"The National Council of United Automobile Workers, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, told the Administration that the automobile workers have not benefitted by the code and will not unless changes along the following lines are made:

"The present code in effect provides for an unlimited number of 48-hour weeks. Some have misunderstood, because the maximum is made to read as 40 or 36 hours per week. But it is permitted to average this throughout the year. Hence workers are made to work forty-eight (48) hours as long as the employer desires, for it has been estimated that the average worker will be lucky if he secures not forty (40) but twenty-four (24) hours of work on the average through the year, as the thousands and thousands of these are laid off can well testify. These hours are not fixed by the code and what is to write a code which would have the effect of increasing the purchasing power. In this connection it is important to consider two facts. 'The first is that the average automobile worker still earns scarcely $800 during the course of the present year. The second is the enormous profits which the automobile companies have been piling up through this same system. Where have they made possible extra dividends.

Code Challenges NRA

"We believe the code of the automobile industry presents a challenge to the NRA. We have only urged a reasonable program. The code should give some protection to workers, should provide an extension of employment, and at the same time should not place upon industry any more than it should carry in order to contribute to a New Deal from which it has so profited.